

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-23 and 25-36 are pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added and no claims have been canceled through this reply. Therefore, claims 1-23 and 25-36 are pending. Claims 1 and 27-28 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3-6, 10, and 35-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite. Applicants have amended claims in order to remove any alleged indefiniteness. Accordingly, Applicants the rejection to claims should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-14, 16-23, 25-26, and 29-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chatfield et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0105763 A1) in view of Whiting (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0156552 A1). Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chatfield and Whiting in view of Tracton et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0114445 A1). Claims 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chatfield and Whiting in view of Kenner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,394). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

For a Section 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. *See M.P.E.P. 2142*. One requirement to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *See M.P.E.P. 2142; M.P.E.P. 706.02(j)*. Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

Argument: Features of claims 1 and 27-28 not taught:

Applicants have amended independent claims merely to further clarify the invention in order to move prosecution forward. Independent claims 1 and 27-28 has been amended to include additional limitations. For example, independent claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, “wherein, the content providing station stores a selection order management table indicative of an order for selecting from among the plurality of contents or content providing devices, and every time the same operation of the operator is performed, the content providing station refers to the selection order management table and switches the content or content providing device in the selection order management table in a case where the content or content providing device of the order following the order of the currently selected content or content providing device is present in the selection order management table.”

Applicants have amended independent claims in order to clarify the claimed invention wherein a content or content providing device to be switched to, is determined in accordance with a selection order management table stored in a content providing station and a currently selected content or content providing device (support: line 16 of page 80 through line 14 of page 81, line 11 of page 83 through line 5 of page 84, line 9 of page 85 through line 7 of page 86, and Figures 16, 20, and 22).

The combination of Chatfield, Whiting, Kenner, individually or in any combination, do not disclose that the content providing station stores and refers to a selection order management table indicating an order for selecting a content from among the plurality of contents or a content providing device from among a plurality of content providing devices, so as to determine, in accordance with an order of a currently selected content or content providing device in the selection order management table, a content or content providing device to be switched to, as now claimed in independent claims 1 and 27-28.

Claims 1 and 27-28 as amended are submitted to be allowable over cited prior art for at least this reason.

Dependent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regards to independent claims at least based on their dependency on the independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1-23 and 25-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-23 and 25-36 are respectfully requested for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

Therefore, for at least these reasons, all claims are believed to be distinguishable over the combination of Chatfield, Whiting, and Kenner, individually or in any combination. It has been shown above that the cited references, individually or in combination, may not be relied upon to show at least these features. Therefore, claims 1-23 and 25-36 are distinguishable over the cited references.

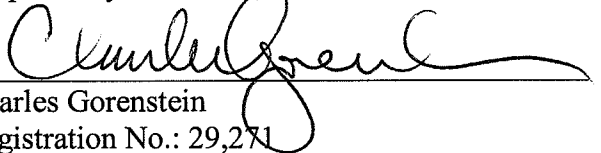
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh Reg. No. 62,278 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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